Complaints from Sugar Companies

1215. PROF. SOURENDRA BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received some reports and complaints from some sugar ocmpanies which nave links with his Ministry and those reports nave also been recommended for Government's action by some MPs;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government had ordered in or about March 1991 the appointment of three private individuals on the boards of directors of these sugar companies; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) Yes, Complaints have been received.

(b) & (c) Board of Cawnpore Sugar Works was advised to cosnider for appointment of two persons as Directors on their Board. Similarly Champaran Sugar Company was advised to consider appointment of one person on their Board provided vacanceis existed. This advise was extended alongwith their bio-data in consideration of regional representation.

Achievements under Social Forestry Project

1216. SARDAR JAGJIT SINGH AURORA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned 'A drain on foreign exchange—no return appearing in the "Times of India' of the 14th August, 1991;

(b) if so, whether Government have reviewed the achievements after launching the social forestry project;

(c) what is the amount spent on the social forestry project in the country till March 1991;

(d) what is the foerign exchange component in the amount indicated in part (c) above; and

(e) what are the details of the economic benefits achieved by the implementation of this project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Regular monitoring of the afforestation and tree planting activities, including the Social Forestry Programme, is the responsibility of the State Governments concerned, Overall monitoring is carried out by the National Wasteland Development Board and also by the Ministry of Programme Implementation. As a part of such monitoring, special studies are also undertaken, from time to time, to assess the progress and the achievements.

(c) and (d) The total expenditure on the externally-aided Social Forestry Projects ending March, 1991, including the projects which closed during the Seventh Five Year Plan period, is estimated to be around Rs. 1068 crores. Keeping in view the different rates for reimbursement of expenditure on various activities under these projects by the donor agencies, the foreign exchange component is expected to be about 70 per cent.

(e) The implementation of the Social Forestry Programme has resulted in increase in employment and income-generation in the rural areas, increase in the availability of biomass products of use to tribal and village communities as also industrial products from the afforestation/tree planting activities taken up under the projects.